New York City.—Fancy blouses, with big pointed collars that open to reveal contrasting fronts, are among the latest features of the season and have

WOMAN'S FANCY BLOUSE.

the added merit of suiting almost all figures. The smart May Manton design is shown in Pompadour silk showing a white ground, with collar of white taffeta, full front and frills of chiffon and trimming of cream lace and medallions. With it is worn a soft stock with cravatte that matches the waist, but all silks, soft wools and the many charming cotton fabrics are appropriate.

The foundation is a fitted lining that closes at the centre front. The waist proper consists of fronts and back and is arranged over the foundation, ranged in inverted pleats that are stitched flat for a few inches below the waist.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is nine and a half yards twenty-seven inches wide, five three-quarter yards forty-four inches wide or five yards fifty-four inches wide; for the blouse alone three and a quarter yards twenty-seven inches wide, one and three-quarter yards forty-four inches wide or one and five-eighth yards forty-four inches wide; for the skirt alone eight yards twenty-seven inches wide, four and three-eighth yards forty-four inches wide or two and a third yards fifty-four inches wide.

A Novelty in Petticoats.

A novelty in petticoats is the Dolly Varden. It is made of printed lawn, with one, two or three graduated flounces, and is pretty and appropriate for gingham, pongee or other thin dress fabric that is not sheer. White skirts are in greater demand than ever, and may be had in the trained style with rich and elaborate trimming, for evening wear, or in the handsome walking skirt variety, or the simpler styles for ordinary service on dusty days.

The Latest in Shirt Waists.

The newest thing in shirt waists is the glass linen. This is nothing more nor less than the coarse white linen, with crossbars of blue or red, used for polishing table glass. It makes up prettily and is immensely serviceable.

A Handsome Skirt.

Long trained skirts make essential parts of correct bridal costumes. The

A SMART OUTING COSTUME.

closing invisibly beneath the left front. The back is smooth across the shoulders and drawn down in gathers at the waist line, but the fronts are slightly full at the belt where they blouse stylishly and becomingly. To the waist is seamed the big ornamental collar. The centre front is soft and full, is shirred across with tiny tucks at intervals, and finished with a stock collar. The sleeves are in elbow length, with soft frills, but these last can be cut longer and converted into puffed under-sleeve of full length gathered at the wrists into straight cuffs of lace.

To cut this blouse for a woman of medium size three and a quarter yards of material twenty-one inches wide, three and one-eighth yards twenty-seven inches wide, two and seven-eighth thirty-two inches wide or two and a half yards forty-four inches wide will be required, with two and a half yards of chiffon, for full front and under-sleeves and five-eighth yard of contrasting material for collar.

A Smart Outing Costume.

Outing costumes made with short skirts and blouse coats are essentially smart, and have the merit of being comfortable as well. The stylish May Manton model, shown in the large illustration, is made of gray Panama canvas stitched with corticelli silk, and is worn with a hat of Panama straw and a shirt waist of white linen.

The blouse is eminently simple. The back is plain and smooth, without fullness, but the fronts, while plain across the shoulders, have the fullness stylishly arranged at the waist line and droop slightly over the belt. The neck is finished with a regulation coat collar and notched lapels, and a pocket is inserted in the left front. The sleeves are in coat style slightly bell-shaped at the hands. When the basque extension is used it is joined to the blouse beneath the belt.

The skirt is cut in five gores that are shaped to avoid darts at the hips and that widen below the knees. The flounce is circular, curved to be amply full, and is seamed to the lower edge, so giving a more becoming effect than is possible when arranged over the skirt. The fullness at the back is arexceedingly handsome May Manton design is perfectly adapted to that use and is both absolutely new and graceful, but becomes suited to simpler occasions also by curtailing its length. As shown, the material is white silk with trimming of Duchess lace in bands, medallions and butterfly bows, a full ruche of chiffon finishing the lower edge, but all white bridal materials are appropriate when the gown is to be worn upon the most momentous occasion in a woman's life, all handsome dress materials for the trained skirt designed for other uses. The original includes a circular flounce on front and sides, but can be made plain if preferred.

The skirt is cut in seven gores, two of which form the train. The flounce is fitted to front and sides and can be

A SEVEN-GORED TRAINED SKIRT.

applied over the material or the latter can be cut off at the indicated depth and the flounce seamed to the lower edge.

To cut this skirt in the medium size fifteen and a half yards of material twenty-one inches wide, fourteen yards twenty-seven inches wide or eight and a half yards forty-four inches wide will be required.

UNWRITTEN LAWS.

The "Next" of the Barber and Giving a Smoker a Light.

"Next," the time-honored barber shop word, is the audible evidence of administration of one of those unwritten laws which are enforced more strictly than many engrossed statutes. "Next" is part of the fair-play code, and probably was inscribed in invisible ink on imperceptible parchment by the patrons of the first man who scraped chins for hire.

It is "first come, first served" crystalized. The barber who permits any man to break the law of "next" is punished on the spot, as an accessory after the fact, and the criminal who slides into a chair before his lawful turn is looked upon as a worthy candidate for penitentiary honors.

A man may step ahead of the one before him in the line leading to the box office of a theatre and every person in line will feel a personal grievance against him, but no one holds the ticket seller responsible for this infraction of the "first come, first served" rule.

A hurried depositor may reach over the shoulders of those who lined up before him in front of the receiving teller's window, but no one feels that the man behind the plate glass screen is a subject for a grand jury investigation.

But in a barber shop "next" means next. It is the basic principle on which the constitution and by-laws of the tonsorial profession are founded. Any barber who will permit the wrong man to get into the right place after he has called out "Next!" loses the respect of his customers then and there.

No Standard in Language.

"Want to standardize the pronounciation of English, do you?" queries a scientist of the bureau of ethnology. "Well, you will not succeed."

"Language will not standardize until it is dead. It is constantly changing. We are going to lose the final 'g' from 'ing' in 200 years. We are going to elide and attach the negative to its verb. We shall drop the apostrophe from 'don't' and that form has already displaced the singular form 'doesn't.' Speech forms and changes come up from the unconquerable multitude. The educated few surrender or get run over. Even now written English is a different tongue from the English of colloquial speech.

"The strength of our tongue is in its wonderful flexibility. Place side by side a scientific statement of the precision of the equinoxes, a milliner's description of a new Parisian hat, a baseball reporter's story of a double play at second base and an electrician's account of the burning out of an armature and you have four different languages incomprehensible to the general reader, yet all in this wonderful English of ours. Persons of ordinary intelligence know the meaning of 10,000 words. There are 250,000 words in a standard dictionary, of which, then, 240,000 are in an unknown tongue to the average man. It is not possible to standardize a spoken language."

The Merchant's Decision.

"Sir," said a lad coming down to one of the wharves in Boston, and addressing a well-known merchant. "Sir have you any berth on your ship? I want to earn something."

"What can you do?" asked the gentleman.

"I can try my best to do whatever I am put to do," answered the boy.

"What have you done?"

"I have sawed and split all mother's wood for nigh on two years."

"What have you not done?" asked the gentleman, who was a queer sort of a questioner.

"Well, sir," answered the boy, after a moment's pause. "I have not whispered in school once for a whole year."

"That's enough," said the gentleman; "you may ship aboard this vessel, and I hope to see you the master of her some day. A boy who can master a woodpile, and bridle his tongue, must be made of good stuff."

Theatre Gallery Repartee.

Mr. W. Pett Ridge tells in the English Illustrated that the best repartee he ever encountered was in the gallery of a theatre. An extremely stout, good-tempered woman contrived to wedge herself into a space that would have accommodated a person of ordinary size, to the unconcealed annoyance of a smartly-dressed youth next to her. She began to peel an orange, and the youth, with a gesture of complaint, removed his silk hat fussily to a safer position. "I suppose," said the good-tempered woman, "that you'd rather have a gentleman sitting by the side of you, sir, wouldn't you?" The youth replied snappishly in the affirmative. "Ah!" said the woman, thoughtfully, "so would I!"

Stepped the Stones Away.

When the New York stock exchange gave up its old quarters less than a year ago in order that a new structure might go up on the site it took temporary quarters in the building of the produce exchange. There is a short flight of stone steps leading to the exchange floor. When the stock brokers went in these steps were practically unworn. In less than six months masons had to be called in to remove these stones and reset them the other side up. Deep furrows had been worn into the surface by the thousands of brokers, clerks and messenger boys rushing up and down the flight. They will have to be replaced altogether before the end of the year.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

The Co-operative Nurse.

An employment for young women that has not yet been exploited is that of the visiting nurse. This novel idea was the result of a chance meeting of several matrons in a suburban town a few days ago.

One of the number replied, when reproached by her hostess for the long intervals between her calls, that she could not leave her little boy alone with her one servant. "The only time that I can get away is occasionally on Friday afternoon," she said.

This plaint led to a comparison of experiences in that direction. A second caller had three children and only one servant, so that her case was even less hopeful, and a third said:

"I have had nurse girls and nurse girls, and they never know enough to relieve me of the responsibility of my baby. They seem to take up this work because they have an idea they do not need to know anything in order to do it."

A happy thought came to one woman, as they thus compared grievances. "Why can we not get a nurse on the co-operative plan?" she asked. "I mean an educated young woman of refined manners, so that she would be a safe and desirable companion for the children. If we could find such a person who would come one day every week, and, when needed, at other times, it would relieve us of many embarrassments.

"Of course, we should have to pay her decent wages. We have to give an ordinary scrub woman $1.25 a day, so we could hardly expect such a woman as we want to come for less than $1.50. For this she might come from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.

"If we wished to have her services in the evening, to permit us to go to the theatre, she might come at 6 o'clock and stay as long as necessary, perhaps for 50 cents. She could easily find enough to engage her regularly, and so make the work pay her at least as well as sewing, or many other occupations."

All present agreed that the suggestion was an inspiration, and immediately a "C. N. Club" was organized, the initials meaning "Co-operative Nurse." They succeeded in finding a young woman who had studied kindergarten methods a little, but had not been successful in starting a school in the town, which already had a popular one.

Thus far the plan is well established, and the members of the club are convinced that the problem of "outings" for them is solved by the visiting nurse.—New York Tribune.

Ancient City in Mexico.

Leopold Batres, conservator of archaeological monuments in Mexico, has exhumed an ancient city of the Zapotecas in the State of Oaxaca. In its center is a grand plaza, and rising to the north of the plaza are terraces, on which are founded two great temples, while in the center of the plaza itself are two massive mausoleums in which the priests of the temples were buried. On opposite sides of the public square there are also twelve smaller shrines, six on either hand, all supported by heavy columns of basalt covered with hieroglyphic inscriptions in bas-relief. In the temples the history of the people was found inscribed, in the language of the Zapotecas, upon fifty tablets of stone. So much of the surprisingly rare historic import has already been found that Mr. Batres will ask the government for more men to be put at the work of exhuming and restoring the buildings of the long-buried city.

Horned Horses.

Prof. Woodward, of the Natural History Museum, of South Kensington, London, who has been engaged for some time past in excavating at Pikermi, near Marathon, has recently completed his work. One of the most valuable discoveries is a collection of heads of horned horses. They were unearthed at Euborea, where the professor carried on some experimental excavations for palaeontological remains. In addition to the heads of the horned horses, the heads and shin bones of rhinoceri and other prehistoric animals were discovered. It is curious that out of the six places in the world where the remains of the horned horse have been found three are in Greece and a fourth in Samos, in the Greek archipelago.

The First Actresses.

Until the time of Charles II. there were no actresses, the women's parts being taken by effeminate-looking men or boys. A good story is told of a certain play at which the King was kept waiting a long time, in spite of his frequent remonstrances. At last he became angry, and the manager was obliged to tell the truth: "An it please you, sire, the Queen is shaving!" The King was so tickled that he spent the rest of the time he was obliged to wait in laughing merrily. Pepys mentions in his Diary that on Jan. 3, 1661, he first saw women on the stage, but this was not the first time they had appeared, for in December, 1660, a woman had appeared as Desdemona.

Feeding Elephants in India.

Elephants in the Indian army are fed twice a day. When mealtime arrives they are drawn up in line before a row of piles of food. Each animal's breakfast includes ten pounds of raw rice, done up in five two pound packages. The rice is wrapped in leaves and then tied with grass. At the command "Attention!" each elephant raises its trunk and a package is thrown into its capacious mouth. By this method of feeding not a single grain of rice is wasted.

POSTOFFICE FACTS.

Figures Showing the Growth of the Country and of the Mail Service.

As the result of many requests received at the Postoffice Department the Third Assistant Postmaster-General has issued a pamphlet entitled, "Postal Statistics of the United States—from 1775 to 1902." It contains much that is of interests, particularly as showing the remarkable growth of the country since the Revolution.

In 1789 there were only seventy-five postoffices established, the length of the post routes being 2275 miles and the gross revenue of the Department being only $7510. The expenditures for the same year were $7560, and of this only $1657 were paid in salaries to postmasters.

There were in 1901, 76,594 postoffices in operation, 511,818 miles of post routes, 466,146,059 miles of mail service performed. The gross revenues of the Department were $111,631,193, the expenditures $115,039,607, and $19,113,590 were paid as compensation to postmasters.

From June 30, 1847, to June 30, 1851, 4,603,200 postage stamps were issued, while in the single year 1901 4,329,273,596 stamps were used by the people of the United States.

In 1853, the year in which stamped envelopes were first issued, 5,000,000 were used, while in 1901 the total was 672,839,000.

The first year's issue of postal cards—1873—numbered 31,094,000, while in 1901 639,614,800 were issued.

The registry system was started in 1855, and in that year the registered pieces numbered 629,322. In 1901 they numbered 20,814,501.

In 1865 money orders to the amount of $1,360,122 were issued, while in 1901 the total amounted to $274,546,067.

The number of pieces of matter of all kinds mailed increased from 500,000 in 1790 to 7,424,390,329 in 1901.

London's Old Clothes.

"What becomes of old clothes?" is the latest question set for solution by our entertaining contemporary, the Tailor and Cutter. We were not aware that the "old clo'" man had almost disappeared. But so 'tis said. The style in which his modern successor does business is to leave a card or circular intimating that he or she will be glad to wait on the lady of the house to inspect any cast-off clothing, for which the highest price will be paid, etc. Occasionally these cast-off clothing dealers do the business quite genteely, not only leaving a card in advance, but driving up in a cab when the business call is made. But what do these cast-off clothing merchants do with their purchases? To that question the sartorial organ replies: "Well, some few are sold by the dealers, others they export, and others they sell to other dealers, who dispose of them in such haunts as Petticoat lane and so on. In most of the jumble or rummage sales now so popular with the churches as a means of raising the wind there is invariably a lot of old clothes, and we have heard that certain garments find a ready sale on these occasions."—London Daily News.

Terrifying Pies.

Not the least quaint and interesting way of celebrating the coronation of Edward VII. is that which will probably be carried out at Denby Dale, near Barnsley. For over 100 years the inhabitants have baked large pies in commemoration of remarkable events. As far back as the recovery of George III. the practice prevailed, and another occasion was the conclusion of peace between England and France in 1815, when the pie contained half a sheep, twenty fowls and half a peck of flour. To celebrate her late majesty's jubilee, the pie was baked in a dish weighing fifteen cwt. It was eight feet in diameter, two in depth, and the total weight was over two tons. The cost was £250, and it was drawn by ten horses. Unfortunately, the pie, when cut, was found to be uneatable, and another was made in the following September, when more than 2000 persons partook of it.—London Chronicle.

A Chinese Farm School.

A Chinese farm school, where youthful Celestials can learn how to become intelligent tillers of the soil, instead of crowding into Chinatown, as now, is a proposed innovation against which the residents of Croyden, near Bristol, are up in arms. The buildings will be Chinese in design, and a Chinese cemetery, with a Chinese temple, will also be provided for. The cemetery will take up about fifteen acres out of forty-eight purchased. The balance of the property will be turned into a model farm. It is also in contemplation to provide a school there, where the Chinese will be instructed in English and where every effort will be made to improve them. The school, which will start with fifty Chinamen, is exciting a great deal of interest among local Celestials.—Philadelphia Record.

New York's Printers.

There are 1700 establishments in this city in which conversation is carried on in ems. That is to say, there are in New York 1700 printing offices, representing a working capital of a good many million dollars and a working force of thousands of men and boys, women and girls. On the lower east side alone, between Fourteenth street and Burling slip, there are 800 printing offices where disciples of William Caxton manage to make a fair living. It seems incredible, does it not? Many of these establishments are in attics, others in cellars, with little rent to pay. The class of work turned out compares unfavorably with that of the Roycrofters, but it is printing.—Victor Smith, in the New York Press.

BUDGET of FUN

The 1902 MODEL.

She rides and fences, golfs and swims
She humps herself and hustles
To bring perfection to her limbs
And vigor to her muscles.

Yet easier tasks she loves to shirk
And seems to have no notion
That hands were made for useful work
And legs for locomotion.
—New York Press.

NOT TUMULTUOUSLY EAGER.

Employer—Are you willing to work for small wages?

Boy—Not very willing, sir.—Boston Post.

NO SURPRISE TO HER.

He—It seems strange I should be so much in love with you, when three weeks ago we hadn't met.

She—Oh, it often happens that way.—Brooklyn Life.

MAKES IT GOOD.

"That fellow makes mighty good money."

"Indeed?"

"Sure; he works in the mint."—Baltimore News.

THE CURIOUS PAIR.

Mrs. Rubba—I wonder why that woman keeps watching me so?

Mr. Rubba—Perhaps she's trying to find out why you are staring at her.—Philadelphia Press.

HER FINANCE.

"I heard a terrible noise in the kitchen last night, Bridget. I hope you didn't break anything?"

"Sure Oi did, mum. Me finance, the policeman, wuz there, and I wuz after breakin' th' ingagemint."—Yonkers Statesman.

REASSURING.

The Music Teacher—Johnny is improving daily in his violin-playing.

Johnny's Mother (gratified)—Is that so? We didn't know whether he was improving or we were just getting more used to it.—Judge.

GENUINE SURPRISE.

Tess—I told that old beau of yours that you were married.

Jess—Did you? Did he seem surprised?

Tess—Yes, indeed! He said: "How on earth did that happen?"—Philadelphia Press.

SURE OF SECLUSION.

"I have decided to spend my vacation at Newport."

"At Newport! Why, man, I thought you wanted seclusion."

"I do, and I'll be secluded all right. I don't happen to be recognized in the Newport set."—Baltimore News.

THE FLOUR WAS TOUGH.

Mrs. Youngbride—I've come to complain of that flour you sent me.

Grocer—What was the matter with it?

Mrs. Youngbride—It was tough. I made a pie with it and it was as much as my husband could do to cut it.—Philadelphia Press.

ART AND $.

"Are you not sometimes downcast to think that you are obliged to apply yourself to art for money?"

"Yes," answered Mr. Stormington Barnes; "but not as downcast as I am when I am applying myself to art and not getting the money."—Washington Star.

SELF-SACRIFICING.

"Mr. Gumstick is one of the most self-sacrificing men I know of," said Miss Cayenne.

"In what way?"

"He takes chances on becoming utterly demoralized in order to find out what books he ought to prevent other people from reading."—Washington Star.

ALL THE SAME.

Mrs. Minks—I did write.

Mrs. Winks—Then I suppose you gave the letter to your husband to post, and he is still carrying it around in his pocket.

Mrs. Minks—No; I posted the letter myself.

Mrs. Winks—Ah, then, it is in my husband's pocket.—Buffalo Express.

A FAMILY COMBINE.

Deacon Jones—I know of three brothers in a neighboring town that would afford excellent material for a sermon on the theme of brotherly love.

Deacon Brown.—I'll make a note of it. Tell me more about them, deacon.

Deacon Jones—Well, John, the eldest, is a physician; Thomas, the second brother, is an undertaker, and William, the youngest, is a marble cutter.—Chicago News.

FATHERLY FINESSE.

Father—I forbid you to allow that sap-headed Squilldiggs to enter the house again!

Daughter—But I love him!

Father—I shall disinherit you! I shall shoot him! I shall——

Daughter—Boo-hoo-oo!

(Later.)

Father—Say, wife, be sure you double Gwendoline's allowance today and give it to her early. I think she is going to elope with young Squilldiggs tonight!—San Francisco Bulletin.

Running up bills is not the sort of exercise that does the most good.